

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE
HORTICULTURE, THE FARM
THE GARDEN

NEW ENGLAND

LITERATURE, NEWS,
THE FINEST RURAL LIFE
USEFUL ARTS

AGRICULTURE

JOURNAL OF

VOL. LVII. - NO. 13.

BOSTON, MASS., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1897.

WHOLE NO. 2922

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN
Official Organ of the N. E. Agricultural Society

LINUS DARLING,

PROPRIETOR.

ISSUED WEEKLY AT

JOHN HANCOCK BUILDING

178 DEVONSHIRE STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

NEW YORK OFFICE,

150 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

TERMS:

\$2.00 per annum, in advance. \$2.50 if not paid in advance. Postage free. Single copies 5 cents.

No paper discontinued, except at the option of the proprietor until all arrearages are paid.

All persons sending contributions to THE PLOUGHMAN for use in its columns must sign their name, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith, otherwise they will be assigned to the waste-basket. All matter intended for publication should be written on note size paper, with ink, and upon one side.

Correspondence from particular farmers, giving the results of their experience, is solicited. Letters should be signed with the writer's real name, in full, which will be printed or not, as the writer may wish.

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Rates of Advertising:

12 1-2 cents per line for first insertion.
6 1-4 cents for each subsequent insertion.

AGRICULTURAL.

Avoid the hard-milking cow. She will either be abused by impatient milkers, or only partly milked by careless ones.

The ice harvest will soon be ready. A small farm ice house can be easily filled for \$1 per ton, and the larger ones very much more cheaply in proportion.

To milk a cow too long before calving is weakening for the cow and the calf. Cows should go dry about six weeks. This is a fair average rule, but may be varied according to the individual cow.

With a good grain ration and plenty of corn stalks, cows can get along without much hay. Some western dairymen do not feed any hay. Stalks are cut fine, mixed with the grain and each feeding sprinkled with warm water.

The right start is the essential for profitable dairying. Begin with good cows and special dairy breeds. Give them good surroundings, with stables, and facilities for feeding and watering which enables the work to be done with least expense. Study the feeding question and learn to get the most for your money.

We are so used to thinking of the soil as mere mineral matter that it comes quite as a shock to find this is a mistake. As a matter of fact the layer of soft mould which clothes the ground in all cultivable districts, and from which vegetation springs, is actually in great part a living layer of tiny plants and animals. Interlacing threads of moulds and fungi, worms and grubs, creeping insects, tiny root parasites, decaying leaves, and the million of bacteria which spring from them—all these are mixed and mingled together for many inches down below our feet in a confused mass of life. Germs of all sorts swarm in countless millions. Indeed, all the plants that grow, and life that exists, on the face of the earth owe their being to the fact that the ground is alive. You take a shovel of the finest soil in the world and sterilize it—that is, beat it till all the life in it is destroyed—and then plant seeds in it. No amount of care or watering will make those seeds grow. Their life depends on the life in the soil around them.—Ex.

A Connecticut Soiling System.

Here is a succession of forage crops for the soiling system as practised by a successful farmer in Connecticut. First, a patch of alfalfa, which is ready to cut in May and can be cut three or four times in a season. Next, oats, which are cut in July, several sowings being made. Third, corn fodder, which is ready in August and later months. The later cuttings of alfalfa fill in the gaps. In winter he feeds cabbages, beets and turnips.

One Hundred Hints on Dairying

BY THE LATE COL. T. D. CURTIS.

PART V.

CHEESE MAKING.

85. Cut early, as soon as the curd will break clean across the finger, and while it is yet tender and will part readily before the knife, without showing signs of toughness. More white whey and waste is made by cutting too late than by cutting too early. Once begun, finish the cutting as soon as possible, and cut as fine as dent corn. The aim is to facilitate the separation of the whey from the curd, and nothing is gained, but something lost by every moment's delay. I derive no advantage from using the horizontal knife, and deem it an unnecessary expense.

86. If the milk is very sweet there is no objection to a little day here, while with the other hand gently removing the curd where it adheres to the sides and ends of the vat or to the bottom. Then start the heat and gently raise it at the rate of about one degree in five minutes, to 98 degrees or blood heat. Have a care not to go much above 100 degrees, as at a temperature much above or below blood heat the action of the rennet is slower. Milk digested in the stomach of a calf, however, goes sometimes as high as 104 degrees.

87. Gently stir the curd with a rake, a hay rake with the handle and head shortened, is as good as any, from the time the temperature begins to rise until it stops rising. After this, occasional stirring is sufficient. Never stir with the hands. It is both laborious and uncleanly with the perspiration exuding at every pore. A careful man with a rake will do no harm, while a careless one with his hands may be squeezing handfuls of soft curd into impalpable atoms. When he uses a rake it is apparent what he is doing.

88. Keep the temperature at 98 degrees until the curd is sufficiently firm and elastic—a point which must be learned by experience, and which must be varied in different localities and under different conditions. A successful cheesemaker in one factory may fail in another; but if he has quick observation and good judgment, he may soon be able to hit the exact point. He may have to vary with the season.

89. Before any acid appears, run off the whey to an amount just sufficient to float the curd. At the first sign of acid, while the whey is yet sweet, draw it off, raise one end of the vat, poke the curd away from the lower end, open it in the middle and pile it along the sides of the vat, to lie and drain until the milk sugar turns to lactic acid. With a dull-pointed knife, frequently cut the curd into strips easy to handle, and bring the bottom curd to the top, so as to give a more equal exposure to the air and keep the temperature approximately even. A strip of sheeting, nailed at short intervals to strips of wood a little longer than the vat is wide, is a good thing to spread over the vat while it is thus standing, and it is also useful just after the milk begins to thicken when set, to prevent escape of heat.

90. In this way curd may lie almost any length of time without injury. The longer it lies, the more it will hasten the curdling process. It should not be put to press until the acid is quite sharp, showing that the sugar has nearly all turned to lactic acid, and danger from this kind of fermentation is over. If put to press sooner the cheese is liable to swell and get out of shape. This method makes a softer and more buttery cheese than when the whey is allowed to take on acid in the whey; but, if properly cured, it is firm enough for shipping purposes.

91. Souring curd in the whey is often a risky and disastrous business. If the acid goes too far, it cuts the fine fats and dissolves and washes out the phosphate, which are necessary to digestion and nutrition; and thus the cheese is rendered both indigestible and unwholesome. It makes a hard cheese, easy to handle, and makes a sour, leaky cheese, good for nothing.

92. When the curd is ready for the



An Old Fashioned Christmas.

press grind it, salt it, at the rate of about one-half pound to 1,000 pounds of milk, cool to 80 degrees, and put to press. Tighten the screws of the press slowly at first, gradually approaching full pressure, and let the cheese remain in the hoops as nearly 24 hours as possible.

93. In many small factories there is no curd milk. In such cases, as soon as the curd is drawn, the salt may be added and the curd piled up as before directed, with frequent stirring. The salt aids in preventing packing, but somewhat retards souring. Before drawing the last whey, cool to 92 degrees, but not below 90.

94. The curing-room should be well ventilated, but free from drafts of air, and be so built that the temperature can be kept uniform. Very rich cheese cures best at 65 degrees; average at 70; and poorer cheese at 75 degrees.

95. The curing process is both a digestive and a chemical one. It secures a much better cheese to have both changes go on slowly. The rennet breaks down the curd and makes it mellow, while fermentation and oxidation develop the flavor.

96. Cheeses, when set on the ranges, should have their exposed faces well greased and rubbed with whey butter. The next day they should be turned and have their other faces treated in the same way. For a week or ten days they should be turned every day and have their faces rubbed with the hand.

If standing in boxes, the boxes should be turned over occasionally.

97. In weighing cheese for market, all fractions must be thrown in to insure good weight. It is best to have the buyer accept them at their weight when shipped.

98. The boxes should not be too dry, as this renders them brittle, while they draw moisture from the cheese and cause complaints of short weight.

99. Have the boxes fit snugly, so the cheese will not slip around, and pare off the edges to the level of the cheese. Put a scaleboard at the top and bottom of each cheese.

100. Study and observe these hints. It will save you trouble, put money in your pocket, and give the consumer better dairy products.

T. D. Curtis's one hundred hints on dairying have, for some time, been out of print. Before the author's death, he gave the writer the privilege of re-publishing them, which he intends some time to do in book form. But not being at this time ready to do so, he has concluded to give them to the public in this form. The latter part of the one hundred hints as given above, are devoted to factory cheese making, in which branch of dairying Col. Curtis was an expert, and, as in other branches, an acknowledged authority. These hints are worth a year's subscription to the paper.

F. W. MOSELEY.

Clinton, Iowa.

How to Keep Milk Pure.

Experiments have shown that the contamination of milk occurring under ordinary circumstances can be reduced over 95 per cent. by taking care to avoid all possible sources of impurity and conditions favoring germ growth, says Farmers' Bulletin, No. 63. The fact that bacteria are usually attached to larger bodies makes the work of preventing their entrance into milk comparatively easy. But with all the care that it is practicable to observe, some bacteria will get into milk; therefore it must be cooled as soon as possible and held at a low temperature to prevent their multiplication. The different steps through which milk passes might be compared to the links of a chain—if one is weak the strength of the whole is impaired; so if the care of the milk is neglected at any step the care taken at other times may be rendered useless.

The first requisite for pure milk is healthy cows. Any animal suspected of being sick or out of condition should be immediately separated from the herd and not allowed to remain near the dairy. If the milk from such animals is used it must first be boiled. On every dairy farm there should be a proper place for keeping sick or suspected animals. It is absurd to claim that any large herd can be constantly maintained in perfect health, and when one finds a dairy farm with no provision for the care of sick animals, he has good cause to suspect that the milk from that place can not be implicitly relied upon for its purity.

When a herd is known to be sound, every precaution should be taken before adding new animals. In one case carelessness in this respect resulted in the loss of about one hundred cows that had been in good health until a few fresh milkers, supposed also to be healthy, but later proved to be tuberculous, were introduced into the stable. The tuberculin test has proved to be a

reliable means of ascertaining the presence of tuberculosis, and its use in any suspected herd is advisable. It does not injure the animals and may be the means of detecting cases that could not otherwise be found, but yet be a source of infection to sound animals. It should be applied only by a competent veterinarian, and after a herd has been tested no animals should be added to it unless known to be free from the disease.

There is little danger of a healthy cow giving abnormal milk if she is well cared for and not allowed to be excited, or unnecessarily disturbed. For this reason it is customary to have certain attendants always care for the same animals. But on some large dairy farms, where this practice is not followed, the claim being made that cows are satisfied with any attendant as soon as they become accustomed to frequent changes. No dog, unless it has been well trained, should be allowed in the pasture or barnyard, and the herd should never be driven rapidly to or from the pasture.

If a cow is in the habit of hooking others she can usually be quieted by dehorning.

Bad effects of feeds may be avoided by changing them gradually and avoiding the use of those which give flavor to the milk—if the latter must be used, the best time is soon after milking. Cows may safely be allowed to graze in a pasture containing some garlic if they are stabled several hours before milking and given dry feed. Such articles as turnips, onions, sour ensilage, etc., should not be stored in the stable, as their odor is imparted to milk through the air.

The proper time for commencing to use milk after calving is easily decided by its appearance and taste, and its behavior when boiled. Colostrum contains much more albumen than normal milk, and this coagulates into a solid mass when heated.

The cleaning of the cow is too often considered of small importance. Every milch cow should be carefully carried and brushed daily, and the udder and lower parts should always be brushed just before milking. It is not enough to clean only the lower parts, leaving the back and sides; the work should be thoroughly done. Some dairymen groom their cows as carefully as horses are groomed in the best stables, and their coats are kept smooth and shining, and one need never fear soiling his hands by touching them.

A stiff, open brush does good work in removing dry matter, but soft and damp manure should be scraped from the hips and flanks, and when necessary this should be followed by a washing or repeated washings. It is generally recommended to carefully wipe the udder, teats, and surrounding parts with a damp cloth just previous to milking. This is for the purpose of moistening the dirt and bacteria, which if left dry are apt to be shaken off during the milking. Washing or wiping the udder or in any way agitating it before being ready to draw the milk is objected to by some milkers, who believe that this action makes the cow think she is to be immediately milked, and when the attendant returns half an hour later the usual amount or quality of milk is not obtained. Not a few practical dairymen make a regular practice of cleaning all the udders before milking is begun and notice no bad effects. It is probable that cows become accustomed to the cleaning and learn not to expect to be milked until the milker appears with the pail. Care should be taken not to make the parts too wet or the impure water will drip into the pail; they should be only slightly dampened. It is also necessary to use care lest the cow take cold by being washed. The work of cleaning may be lightened by having the hair clipped about the udder and on the flanks, and by the use of clean bedding, not too fine.

The herd requires the most attention when continuously stabled. But it is almost as necessary to clean the animals when pastured as at other times, especially if they are permitted to wade in silty pools. Wading in clear water is not objectionable, but cows should always be kept out of foul or sluggish water. The barnyard ought to be so well drained that stagnant pools of water are never seen there. If this is impossible the pool should be fenced to keep the cattle out.

The personal cleanliness of the attendants is often neglected. They should be clean in appearance and habits. Clothes and hands require special attention. Outer garments, used for dairy work only, should be worn, and they should be cleaned often. If a separate suit is kept for milking and is hung in the stable and never aired, it looks and smells badly and is soon worse than the regular work clothes. White material that can be washed is the best for dairy suits. The objection made against

white goods that they show dirt quickly is really in their favor. When a suit is soiled it should show it and be cleaned. On model dairy farms the suits are washed daily; this is not a difficult task, as they never become much soiled and they may be rough-dried. A hat or cap should be used, to prevent hairs falling into the pail from the milker's head. If an entire special suit is not used when milking, one loose outer garment at least should be worn.

Just before milking the milker's hands ought to be washed. His finger nails should be clean, and they should be kept short and smooth at all times. An abundance of water and soap should be available and used. Some recommend washing the hands after each cow is milked; neglect of this has resulted in unconsciously carrying a disease, such as inflammation of the udder, to sound animals. Care must be taken not to let the hands touch the milk, as the skin always has more or less excretions on it, and these help to contaminate milk. The hands should be kept dry and if there are any sores they must be carefully covered before milking. Dirt and milk rubbed into an abrasion on hands or teats cause ugly sores. Smoking or any use of tobacco while milking should never be tolerated, and clothing impregnated with the odor of tobacco should be discarded.

Fertilizing With Germs.

TALK ON NITRAGIN WITH DR. GOESSMAN AND PROFESSOR BROOKS.

Our readers will call to mind our former accounts of experiments with nitragin or "germ fertilizer" given in the form of an interview with Dr. Goessman. These experiments have been continued during the past year under the charge of Professor Brooks.

Dr. Goessman December 7 is still hopeful that the "fertilizer" will prove of general value, and does not regard the experiments as by any means concluded. Dr. Goessman said in substance:

"Nitragin is a liquid containing germs of the kind which attach themselves to clover roots, or to the roots of other leguminous plants and seize upon the nitrogen of the air contained in the soil. The object of applying nitragin is to introduce those germs into soils which do not naturally possess them. We think the treatment is likely to prove most useful in growing new kinds of leguminous plants, such as the soja bean and cow pea, since each species of leguminous plant has a root germ of its own without which it cannot feed upon the fertility of the air.

SOWING GERM SEED.

"When these plants are grown for the first time the special germ which makes them thrive may be absent. In this case the right preparation of nitragin would introduce the germ into the soil, which would serve as germ seed, and the soil would become filled with sufficient numbers of bacteria. We have yet to decide whether this treatment is practical, and should not advise it to the practical farmer except as experiment.

We have sent inoculated soil to a western farmer who wished to try a new kind of leguminous crop, to which his soil did not seem adapted, and his soil became seeded with germs from the inoculated soil, so that the new crop could be successfully grown. Such a plan, however, would plainly be practicable only on a small scale."

Said Professor Brooks: "I do not think the nitragin treatment will come into general use at least in connection with common leguminous crops, like clover, because all of our soils seem to have enough of the germs naturally. We have not yet tested, however, the various kinds of nitragin completely, and it may prove of value with some of the newer leguminous plants in some localities."

When there is snow on the ground is a good time to haul out and scatter manure.

In determining how much the farm paid, be sure to count in something for the living.—Exchange.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

BOSTON, DECEMBER 25, 1897.

Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.

PLOUGHMAN FARMERS' MEETING.

Saturday, January 1, 1898, 10 A. M.

ESSAY by SAMUEL CUSHMAN, Pawtucket, R. I. Subject—The Farmers' Poultry: Suggestions on Housing, Feeding, Breeding and Marketing.

The first of the MASS. PLOUGHMAN Farmers' Meetings will be held in Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield St., Boston, Saturday, Jan. 1, 1898, at 10 o'clock A. M.

We have had many inquiries in regard to the opening of our Farmers' Meetings this season, which is good evidence of the interest they have for the farmers all over New England. We shall be glad to have all our friends and anyone who is interested in the poultry question, attend the first meeting of the season Saturday morning, January 1, at Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield St. Our poultry meetings are always the most enthusiastic and largely attended of any of the series, and this will prove no exception. Prof. Samuel Cushman of Pawtucket, R. I., will speak on a thoroughly practical topic, and those who heard him last year at our Farmers' Meeting, and have read some of his writings since, know the meeting will be well worth coming some distance to attend. The special subject is announced in this issue, but no one who has the least interest in poultry raising or thinks of going into it at some future time, can afford to stay away. The PLOUGHMAN welcomes everyone, and we would extend a cordial invitation to the ladies, who have proved themselves to be especially successful in this branch of farming. We hope many of them will be present.

SOME saving is waste.

HUNGRY land: hungry owner.

DEBTS before improvements.

WORK head more and save heels and hands.

TAKE time to think how to be a better farmer.

AN honest heart is better comfort than a box of bonds.

DOSES of industry, economy and hope cure hard times.

NEGLECT is a cousin to laziness; both are relatives of waste.

Be generous with the farm, but make it account for every cent.

CONSTANT borrowing makes bad neighbors; a borrowed tool stays a long time lent.

THE most wasteful of wastes on the farm is the purchase of poor stock and poor seed.

ANYBODY can become well-to-do who has sense enough to work and to keep what he earns.

THE man who merely knows how is likely to be found working for the man who knows why.

A SOLID and permanent improvement for the farm is road making. Good roads save time and horse-flesh.

AN enthusiastic man is likely to succeed in the line of his tastes, because he is sure to do the best he can.

MACHINERY and tools will wear out, and so will your back. Better save the latter, for you can't get another.

No matter how large the crops or how good the stock, the farm is a failure where the children turn out to be scrobs.

In planning the corn crop for the silo, a fair average allowance is an acre for each three cows, if the cows are fed the usual amounts of hay and grain.

OUR readers ought to use the experiment stations more frequently. A great deal of valuable matter is sent free in the form of bulletins and various materials are analyzed without charge.

WHAT a lot of breath will be wasted during 1898 talking politics. Pity the farm cannot be run by wind power! If some farmers were as keen upon farming as they are on politics, they would make money.

WHY leave all the fun of making experiments to the experiment station? The only sure way to prove the value of a new thing is to try it yourself. Every farmer should be a little experiment station, and its owner the director.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, ss.

LUCAS COUNTY.
I, FRANK J. CHENEY, make oath that I am the author of the book of F. J. CHENEY, entitled "Hood's Cough Cure," and that said book will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH of the throat cured by the use of H. L. CHENEY'S CURE, before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A.D. 1897.
A. W. GLEASON,
Notary Public.
Hood's Cough Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials, free.
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
Solely Druggists, &c.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Not one passenger was lost through the perils of the deep in 1897 on the Great Lakes. One jumped overboard and was drowned of his own choosing; otherwise not one of all the thousands is named missing now that the season's tale is told. Of Lake Michigan, the "Stormy Water" of the Indian, is the tale especially marvellous, for the Chicago lines alone carried half a million passengers. The Lake Michigan & Lake Superior Transportation Company, Chicago to Duluth, carried over 20,000. The whole-back Christopher Columbus had 125,000 passengers. The Graham & Morton Company had almost as many. The Goodrich Transportation Company carried 200,000. Sixty-eight sailors were killed. This is about the yearly average of the loss of life among the sailors. The one disaster of the season, the loss of the Idaho on Lake Erie, drowned nineteen. Of the other forty-nine, three committed suicide and twelve escaped drowning to fall through hatchways.

The world's production of gold in 1896, according to the advance sheets of the forthcoming report of the director of the mint, was 305,379 kilograms, or 9,817,991 ounces, fine, of the value in round numbers of \$203,000,000, as compared with 299,885 kilograms, or 9,611,377 ounces, fine, of the value of \$199,304,000, in 1895, an increase of \$3,696,000.

This increase of the world's gold output in 1896 over that of 1895 is not as great as was that of 1895 over 1894, which amounted to \$18,129,000. The reduction in the increase of the world's production in 1896 over 1895 is due almost entirely to the diminished production in the Witwatersrand district in 1896.

The world's output of silver in 1896 was approximately 5,136,274 kilograms, or 165,100,887 ounces, fine, of the commercial value at the average prices during the year of \$6.74 per ounce, fine, or \$111,278,000, and the coining value of \$213,463,700—a decrease as compared with 1895 of 68,000 kilograms, or 2,187,842 ounces, fine, of the commercial value of \$1,474,606, and the coining value of \$2,828,725.

The cotton industry of Massachusetts employs a larger amount of capital and a larger number of workmen than any other one industry in the state. At present the market is very much depressed and the problem which confronts the manufacturers is a very grave one. They claim that they are being driven to the wall by the sharp competition of the Southern manufacturers. The latter are enabled to produce cotton goods at a much lower cost because of their nearness to the raw material, cheap water power and coal, cheap labor, freedom from restrictive labor legislation and the dictation of labor organizations. The Northern manufacturers claim that there is no other way to solve the problem except by cutting wages, and several mills have already voted a reduction. The manufacturers have shown themselves very willing to confer with the employees as to finding any other way out of the difficulty but are unwilling to adopt the suggestion made by them that the number of working days should be curtailed.

Congress adjourned last Saturday until after the Christmas holidays and most of the members returned to their homes. The last day of the session, the conference report on the emergency relief measure for the Klondike country was presented and agreed to. It fixes the amount of relief at \$200,000, provides for securing the consent of Canada to extending the relief to the Canadian side, and authorizes the use of the army to carry out the relief measures. It also provides that the supplies must be purchased, not donated. The annexationists are quite hopeful over the prospect of the ratification of the treaty with Hawaii. They report that the opposition is breaking up and that there is a good outlook for the triumph of their cause.

A fight is being made all along the line against the civil service reform system. A bill is to be framed to reform the present civil service law, which will be introduced shortly after the holidays are over. Much material is being collected to show the maladministration of the law and the opponents of the further extension of the merit system claim that it was never intended that the present law should have such a wide application as it has at the present time.

The shipment of agricultural and other food products to Europe is apparently showing no decrease, says the Advertiser. Although imports into the United States during the past five months have decreased, as compared with the normal amount, it is evident that Europe is even more anxious than ever to get food supplies from the United States. In the increase in the export business of American provisions, it is worth some notice that the commerce of Boston has gained a full share. The total exports of provisions from the United States, in the eleven months of 1896 ending Nov. 30, amounted to a value of \$148,000,000. The exports of provisions for the corresponding period of the present year had a value of more than \$154,000,000. In this increase it is noteworthy that the proportion of Boston's gains was decidedly better than that at any other of the principal competing ports of the United States.

Out of all American ports doing a large business in the export of provisions Boston alone showed a gain of much more than five per cent, and practically stood at the head of the list in its proportion of increased business. One reason for this increase may be found in the wise policy which some railroads of this section are

pursuing, in combining freight with passenger business by the use of the "composite" type of transatlantic steamship. The result of this change is not only beneficial to Boston's commerce, but it is also calculated to invite passenger business to this port.

An innovation which will affect a large part of the mail matter passing through Boston, is the introduction of the pneumatic transmission of the mail from the post office to the Union Station. This is accomplished by sending the mail matter in cylindrical steel carriers through tubes laid underground between those two points, the motive power being compressed air. These carriers will each contain some six hundred letters and can be despatched at the rate of ten a minute, so that, if necessary, six thousand letters can be sent through the tube per minute, 360,000 letters an hour. The carriers are so constructed that the parts which take the wear can easily be replaced, and so that no shock comes to the parcels within. To illustrate this latter fact, clocks, dolls, lamps and other fragile articles were sent through without injury at the time of the official test, and even bouquets of flowers found their way through without being damaged. The saving in time will be considerable, as by means of the pneumatic tube, the mail is delivered in a minute and a half, whereas by teams, as heretofore, from twenty to twenty-five minutes was required. Although a new thing in Boston, it was introduced a little while ago in New York and Philadelphia, and has been used satisfactorily for a long time on the Continent and in England. Other lines will be constructed in this city in the spring, connecting the Southern Union Station and the suburban offices with the central office, which will greatly improve the mail facilities of the city.

In a report to the State Department, William Haywood, the United States consul general at Honolulu, gives some interesting information about the Hawaiian sugar crop, which this year is estimated at 248,566 tons, an increase of twelve tons over last year. The reports of labor, says Mr. Haywood, show that the planters have had more trouble than usual on account of desertions, especially with the Japanese. Of the 22,000 laborers employed on sugar plantations, 11,394 were Japanese, 6861 Chinese, 1902 Portuguese and 1356 Hawaiians. Mr. Haywood says the Japanese seem to be preferred by the planters, seventeen of whom favor their employment, against six for Chinese, six for Portuguese, four for both Chinese and Japanese, and two for Hawaiians. In view of the contention of the United States that Hawaii has been flooded with Japanese in the last few years, and the denial of the Japanese government that this is true, some figures prepared by the attorney general of Hawaii and included in Mr. Haywood's report are interesting.

In 1890 the Japanese laborers numbered 5624 out of a total of 18,359 laborers employed on sugar plantations; 13,019 out of a total of 20,535 in 1892; 13,844 out of a total of 21,294 in 1894; 11,584 out of 20,950 in 1895, and 12,893 out of 23,782 in 1896. The Chinese laborers were 4517 in 1890 and decreased to 2617 in 1892. They numbered 6289 in 1896. The Portuguese and Hawaiians vary very little in numbers. One significant statement is made in Mr. Haywood's report. He says that there were ten cases of trouble with Japanese laborers to every single case of trouble with Chinese.

An interesting work being done in the educational line is the educating of the Indians at Hampton, Va. The Indians are brought here from the schools on the reservations, being carefully selected from among the best pupils. Here they are fitted to become teachers and missionaries among their own people, although, as a rule, it has been found better to send them as teachers not to their own tribe, but to some other than their own. Even if they do not actually take the position of teacher when they return West, they exert a strong influence for the better by the civilizing effect of the establishment of a Christian home in the community in which they dwell. The total enrollment this year is larger than for the past few years and numbers in all 138. Thirteen tribes are represented, the majority of those from the West being Sioux and Winnebagoes, while most of the Eastern Indians are Senecas from New York and Cherokees from North Carolina. The course at Hampton is thoroughly practical, and includes sewing, dressmaking and housekeeping for the girls, and the various trades and of farming for the boys. The Indians are realizing the importance of the opportunities offered them for learning the different trades, and many of them are showing great proficiency. Many of the Indians, on going back to the reservations, are employed as teachers in the reservation schools. About thirty-four per cent. of the present Indian service employees are Indians. The employment of Indian teachers in the Indian school service is a proved success. Investigation has shown that the Indians have done as well and often better than the white employees who had equal chances of preparation. The opportunity offered

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the Indians for earning money proves a great incentive, and is especially valuable as it helps to offset the pernicious effect of the ration system which, by supplying the immediate needs of the Indians, kills all independence and ambition.

The prospect for the surrender of the insurgents in Cuba and the establishment of autonomy seems but a poor one in that island. In addition to the reports which reach this country of many additions to the insurgent forces, there comes also the news that Lieut. Col. Ruiz was shot by command of General Rodriguez. Ruiz offered himself as a messenger to General Blanco to go to the insurgent camp to offer terms of surrender to the leaders. Previous to this General Gomez had announced that any Spanish envoy who was found in an insurgent camp, seeking to induce the insurgents to surrender, should be put to death. Colonel Ruiz was so found by Gen. Rodriguez, and in spite of the protests of some of the Cuban leaders and the friendly intervention of representatives of the United States government, he was court-martialed and shot. The event has caused great excitement in Havana and is significant as indicating the resolve of the insurgents to make choice only between independence or death.

It is reported that General Blanco has declared that within a reasonable time after the establishment of autonomy in Cuba it is clearly seen that it has no practical effect in the restoration of peace, he will tender his resignation to the Central Government and return to Spain.

It is believed that simultaneously with the publication of the decree of autonomy the captain general will issue a proclamation inviting the insurgents to surrender in view of the concessions made by Spain to the island.

A well known leader of the Conservatives in Havana, expresses himself of the opinion that the step taken by the Sagasta Government in passing over the Cortes to modify so radically the constitution of Cuba, is too reckless to have any enduring character. The same views are entertained by many persons there, and the autonomy decree has not aroused much enthusiasm.

Literary Notes.

A book which has already been referred to in our columns but deserves more extended notice is *THE LAW OF MARRIED WOMEN IN MASSACHUSETTS* by Geo. A. O. Ernst. As compared with fifty years ago, the legal status of women in Massachusetts has vastly improved and much of this reform has been brought about by the very agitators whose efforts have been protested against by women who, being happily situated, have not felt the injustice of the law in regard to their sex. Mr. Ernst has made the perplexing intricacies of the law very clear, and any woman may become acquainted with the rights and privileges accorded her by the laws of this state and guard them from intentional or unintentional encroachment. The book is well indexed so that it is possible to find the law upon any point in question without delay. Every married woman should own a copy of this book, so that she may intelligently administer her own affairs. Published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

BIRD-NEIGHBORS, by Nellie Blanchard, will be a source of delight to every bird lover who is so fortunate as to become a possessor of a copy. It does not attempt to go into much scientific detail in regard to the birds it treats of, but aims only to be a companionable volume which shall lead the reader, not only to become interested in the subject, but to learn to identify and study the habits of the every day birds about him for himself. The birds are grouped, not in any arbitrary or scientific manner, but according to the color, as a novice would naturally group them. This feature is greatly aided by the fifty beautiful colored plates, of full size, which delight the eye on opening the book. Even those most unfamiliar with bird life, can, by careful reading of this book and close observation of the birds in his locality, identify them without hesitation. It tells where to look for the different kinds of birds and what localities they most prefer. The birds are also grouped according to the season in which they appear, and when they may be expected and the time of their migration. A pleasant introduction is written by John Burroughs, who says that the colored plates found in this volume will be quite as helpful as those of Audubon or Wilson. Considering the beauty of the book and its helpfulness to the bird lover in gaining an acquaintance with his winged neighbors, the price \$2 is a very moderate one. Books of this kind, if widely circulated, would do more to arouse public opinion against the use of birds' plumage as an adornment than any other one method. Published by Doubleday and McClure Co., New York. For sale in Boston by De Wolfe, Fiske & Co.

Charming as are all the writings of F. Hopkinson Smith, his *GONDOLA DAYS*, just published, excels them all. Venice is an ideal subject for a book of this character and the author is evidently in love with his subject. Without the least effort he transports his readers to the enchanted city, leads them through its winding canals, under its picturesque bridges, past the marble palaces, rich in history and art, and to the secluded and romantic gardens. He shows them the beautiful combinations of color which play over the time-stained walls of the Venetian dwellings, bids them note the picturesqueness and happy-heartedness of the Venetian street life, points for them the glowing tints of the sunsets and sunrises which glorify that city and makes them feel the beauty of the moonlight night in Venice. He tells them, with the aid of his friend, the Professor, stories and legends of the early Venetian days, of its departed glories and customs. There appears to be but one rainy day in Venice, but even that becomes a gala day by reason of the liberties which the high tide takes with this city of the sea. The description of the gondola race is especially fine, with its dash and spirit. The illustrations add much to the beauty of the book. It is rarely that an author and artist are so happily combined as they are in Mr. Smith's writings. Published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

The shade tree idea is over done on some farms. A few of them are a great blessing in summer, but too many of them too close to the buildings are breeders of mildew and rheumatism. Dryness and good circulation of air is even more important than shade.

The World Over.

—Henry Labouchere gives in Truth a new story of King George's duplicity in the Turco-Greek war.

—Miss Ellen Nussey, who acted as bridesmaid for Charlotte Bronte, has just died at Birstall, at the age of eighty-three years.

—Artesian wells have proved successful in New South Wales, the area within which underground water is found extending 62,000 square miles.

—The most costly piece of railway line in the world is that between the Mansion House and Aldgate Stations in London, which required the expenditure of close upon 2,000,000 pounds a mile.

—A special despatch from Hamburg says: Prince Bismarck, who braced up for the emperor's visit, has relapsed into his former weakness, despondency and persistent insomnia. His physician says Prince Bismarck is rapidly declining.

—The North German Lloyd steamer Darmstadt, having on board half the number of volunteers bound for China and an immense amount of war material, has left for the far East. The steamer Creffield will follow in a fortnight with the rest of the volunteers and more material.

—A report is current in official circles in Berlin to the effect that the German military authorities intend to rearm all the forts along the Russian frontier, nearly all the ordnance, which is of a date prior to 1885, being superseded by weapons of modern design and recent manufacture.

—The Russian minister of the interior has issued an order prohibiting four newspapers—the People, the Echoes of the World, the Son of the Fatherland and the German St. Petersburg News—from publishing advertisements. This is a disciplinary penalty imposed upon them for having reproduced from the Svet a sensational letter written by some students of the Warsaw University.

—Lieutenant Robert E. Peary, U.S.N., and Mrs. Peary are on their way from England to the United States on board the American line steamer St. Paul, sailing from Southampton. The lieutenant has been besieged by inventors, who have submitted plans for flying machines, submarine boats, iceboats, steam engines and electrical apparatus for reaching the North Pole, all impracticable.

—Remonstrances addressed by the foreign Powers to the Porte have resulted in the latter obtaining from the Imperial Ottoman Bank a temporary loan of \$100,000 for the specific payment of the arrears of the salaries of the new desicute Turkish ambassadors abroad. Drafts are now being forwarded from Constantinople to these long-suffering servants of the sultan. But in no case will the remittances thus made pay the salaries to a later date than last June.

—A Buenos Ayres special to the Herald says: Every indication now is that the Finance Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, which is framing the retaliatory tariff against the United States, will recommend considerably increased duties on petroleum, pine timber, cars, ploughs and all agricultural implements imported from the United States. Duties on petroleum and pine timber were considerably reduced in 1895 as a reciprocal measure to the United States for the Wilson law.

Read and Run.

—There is more news of lack of food at Dawson City.

—Leaf tobacco reached its highest point in years lately.

—The Boston horse show will not be held next spring.

—Georgia is to have the first textile school in the South.

—A million-dollar fire has been reported at Grand Forks, N. D.

—A treaty with the Seminoles has been made by the Dawes Commission.

—The iron ore receipts at Erie exceeded last year's record by 500,000 tons.

—Jordan, Marsh & Co., inaugurated profit-sharing with their employees this week.

—Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Wordell of New Bedford celebrated their golden wedding recently.

—About 4,000,000 false teeth are manufactured annually in the United States, while one ton of gold and three tons of silver and platinum to the value of \$100,000,000 are used in stopping teeth.

—It is claimed that the potato crop of Minnesota this year will net the farmers between \$5,000,000 and \$5,000,000. There seems to be a wide difference between the figures, but even at the lower estimate they show that the State is making a profit on the investment.

—Mr. Joseph H. Potts of North Billerica, recently shot a magnificent specimen of the Arctic owl, and the bird is now being mounted. It was found that he measured five feet and four inches from tip to tip. The Arctic owl is a rarity in this section of New England, and naturalists place a very high value upon it.

"The Great Milk-Producing Food of the Age,"

Cream Gluten Meal!

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A little higher in price, but of far GREATER FEEDING VALUE. THE ANALYSIS is always printed in large letters on each sack. Always sold in 100-pound sacks, never any other way.

Manufactured by the CHAS. POPE GLUCOSE CO., at Geneva and Venice, Ill.

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ASK YOUR GRAIN DEALER FOR IT.

—The German agricultural papers make the remarkable statement that the imports of American apples into the German empire last year were more than twenty times as large as in any previous season, the shipments in 1896 having amounted to no less than 6,000,000 centers—the center being equal to a hundredweight.

—Mrs. Hannah Kingsley has just celebrated her one hundredth birthday. She was born in Kennesawville, N. Y., Dec. 12, 1797, the third of a family of six children. In the spring of 1812 Mr. Sears came with his family to Van Buren, and here Hannah Sears was married to Cyrus H. Kingsley Dec. 16, 1815. Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley began housekeeping upon the Van Buren farm, which has for eighty-two years been her home.

DURING the discussion at Taunton recently a new note was distinctly sounded on the milk question. It was not better prices alone, as usual at such discussions, but better prices for better milk. It is no doubt true that quite a large portion of consumers of milk are willing and anxious to buy a grade of milk that will stand the test for cleanliness and wholesomeness, milk which can be guaranteed to have been produced under healthful conditions, and that shows no sign of settling, etc., or has a bad taste. The farmer who will produce such milk and will let it be known to the right class of trade, can already command fancy prices, just as the skilled fruit or vegetable grower can command more than the ordinary market price. The time is approaching when there will be many grades and many prices of milk. Poor milk may be as cheap as ever, but good milk will more readily command an extra price.

City fruit handlers manage to keep Catawba grapes well into the spring season. This long keeping fruit is carefully selected and handled and kept at low temperature in the store house. This plan provides a market for thousands of tons of grapes which would otherwise be a drug on the market during the height of the season.

Country Real Estate

The Cooper farm of forty-five acres in Bellingham has been sold to James Stockton of Boston.

Arthur E. Leonard has sold his stock farm on Causeway street, Millis, to John H. Smith of Chippewa Falls, Wis., together with a large amount of personal property. The property consists of 100 acres of land, first-class commodious farm buildings, and is assessed for \$6000. Mr. Leonard has spent much time and money in making this one of the most desirable farm properties.

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A Farm of about 100 acres, within 50 miles of Boston. Must have a pond or a stream of some size on it. Send price, diagram, size of pond and full particulars to EDWARD HATCH, 22 Devonshire Street, Boston.

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would be cheap, but I have some feed at six dollars per ton that is as nutritious as hay, but you can feed much less hay, and make up the required weight of bulk with this feed—80 cts. in any quantity at 80 cents per ton, delivered at depot in Boston, the bags are 10 cents each, returnable at same price, or you can send your own bags if you prefer. Will send you a trial lot of 300 lbs. on receipt of one dollar. What will give a chance to see it, and try it on your stock. I have a few small cars of 12 tons each for \$50, you pay freight from Boston. There would not be quite as uniform in quality as the seed hay fed above at six dollars per ton. I will refund \$10 for the bags if returned within 30 days, which will make the cost of 12 tons only \$40. Terms, cash with order. Better be quick and order a car of it. C. C. Parsons, 154 Commercial Street, Boston, Mass.

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THE HOUSEHOLD.

For the Mass. Ploughman.
JACK'S COMPLAINT.

BY MARIE P. CLAPP.

I think it's a shame Santa Claus can't remember what little boys write to him, first of December. I wrote him a letter and said, "Mr. Claus, I don't want to hang up my stocking this Christmas, because I want a baby, I'm too big for toys. Papa and me, we're fond of boys, and Mamma doesn't care, so please send a brother. Your little friend, Jack." After all that bother I felt pretty bad when Christmas came, and Jack will find his present upon Mamma's bed. Course I didn't tell her, I only kissed her. But he'd gone and forgotten and sent a sister.

Santa Claus Knows.

Grandmother says I'll lose my head next.

Papa says he can't afford to buy me any more knives. Mamma says she'll have to sew my clothes on.

That's because I left my jacket on a fence corner when I took it off to play ball, and I came home without it, and when I went back where it was it wasn't there.

Nora says we'll all starve next.

That's because I went to buy some things, and I lost the paper they were written on, and when I was looking for it I found a cent, and I heard an organ-grinder and a monkey, and me and Billy Watkins went to give 'em the cent, and we went round after 'em a little while, and when I got home it was dinner-time, and the things to eat weren't there.

I wish my things wouldn't always get lost. Mamma says it's because I'm not careful of them, but I guess she doesn't know how easy it is to lay down your knife by the creek when you're making willow whistles and forget all about it.

Or to throw your ball the last time and never see where it goes when they call you to wash for supper, and never think of it again till the next time you want it, and then you don't see it again till some one picks it up under a bush all soaked.

Or to leave your new felt hat on the grass when you're playing mumble peg and Rover finds it and tries to eat it up.

Or to have your tops and handkerchiefs and shoes and gloves always getting lost all kinds of ways.

One day grandmother asked me if I thought Santa Claus would bring anything for boys who lost everything.

"I guess he don't know," I said.

"I believe he does know," grandmother said. "He always seems to know pretty well what you want in your stocking, doesn't he?"

He does, you know! And I began thinking I'd better be careful, for Christmas was coming. But somehow I wasn't, for that very day mamma sent me with a sponge cake over to old Miss Pratt's and I just set it down while I was looking for some gum on the old cherry-tree, and the first thing I knew Rover had it half eaten up, and I guess he thought it was better than felt hats.

But I was hoping Santa Claus would not hear about it—and about some other things when he had so much to see about Christmas time.

We all hung up our stockings. I had a great time trying to find my best red ones, and at last I found one where I'd rolled it into a ball to shy at Tom, and it fell behind some books, and it had a dreadful hole in the toe because it hadn't got into the wash, and so it hadn't got mended, but I thought Santa Claus'd be too busy to notice that.

On Christmas morning we boys all jumped for our stockings, and I was just feeling that Jack and Tom were hauling out things with paper round, and they were silk mufflers, and I hauled out a paper, too.

Was it a new muffler all soft and nice with poke-dots on the edge?

No, sir, it wasn't.

It was three old mean handkerchiefs of mine, that I'd stuffed into a hole in my ship when I leaked.

And there was a knife all rusty that I'd been making a dam with. And there was another knife I'd left out when I made a snow man, and a pearl-handled one of mamma's I'd taken to make a grave for a beetle when the ground was frozen, and it was all spoiled, too. And there was a top that I had cracked when I threw it at Billy Watkins's dog.

I wouldn't look at another thing, but I saw down on the floor my beautiful picture book I left out in the rain, and my ship I left out in the sun till she cracked, and my whip I poked the fire with, and I pitched the old stocking away, and I—well—I cried.

Soon the folks came to see what the matter was, and grandmother came right in. Tom said:

"He don't like his stocking, and I wouldn't either. It's a mean old stocking," and grandmother said:

"Why, this is a nice stocking. Look here."

I looked and saw my other red stocking that I couldn't find hanging there all clean and mended, and I don't know to this day how I didn't see it before, and there was a muffler for me and a new knife and lots of other things, and Tom showed grandmother the old stocking, and she took up the things that were in it, looked at 'em, and said:

"Yes, yes, I see how it is. These things were for a careless boy. Of course Santa Claus couldn't put nice things in such an old stocking as this. And the nice things are for a boy who is going to be good and orderly.—The Household."

Santa Claus' Wheel.

"Yes," said Santa Claus, "I must have a wheel."

"A wheel?" said Mrs. Santa Claus.

"Yes, my dear, a wheel. Everybody rides a wheel now. Think how softly I could go about on a wheel. You know some of those children are always trying to see me and they lie awake Christmas Eve to hear me coming. It is no easy matter to make my reindeer go softly. They've almost caught me many a time."

"But how can you carry all the presents without your sleigh?"

"Oh, I can have a larger sack to carry on my back."

"But what will you do with your reindeer? They will have nothing to do."

"Well, they are getting old and need a rest. It is very cold driving them so far, and sometimes I am nearly frozen. I think I should freeze if I didn't get warmed going down the chimneys. But you can always keep warm on a wheel. And it does one good to ride a wheel."

"It may be good for young people Santa, but you are too old."

"Too old! Not a bit. Besides, old people as well as young, ride."

"And you will grow thin working so hard. And what would people think of a thin Santa Claus?"

"Oh, my good wife, it will not take off a pound of my flesh. It is no work, at all. When I order all the wheels the boys want, this year, I think I'll order one for myself."

"Well," said his wife, "a wheel may be a fine thing, but it will not seem much like Christmas if I do not see the reindeer prancing about."

Santa Claus got his wheel before Christmas and rode a few times. When Christmas Eve came he started off on it with a big pack on his back. Everything went well for a time. None of the boys and girls heard him as he rolled softly over the roofs, though you may be sure many of them were lying awake to hear the sound of bells and hoofs.

Santa Claus laughed to himself, and said, "This is the way to ride! And it doesn't cost anything to keep a wheel. When I get back I'll sell my reindeer to some people in Lapland. I shall have no more use for them. And Mrs. Santa shall have a wheel, too."

As he came out of the chimney of a house that had a steep roof, he thought, "Now, here's a fine chance to coast. I've seen them do it and it must be great fun." So down he started at great speed. Faster and faster he went. The wheel was running away with him. He could not stop. He reached the edge and down he fell. He heard a crash in his bag as he fell, "All those dolls' heads!" he groaned.

He landed in a big snow-drift and lay there a few minutes, he was so dizzy. Then he got up slowly, shook himself and felt of his bones. "No bones broken, but I feel pretty well shaken up," he said. Then he looked for the wheel. It was broken to pieces.

Long, long after midnight, Mrs. Santa Claus, who sat half asleep by the fire, waiting her husband's return, with some hot tea ready for him, heard the door open, and Santa Claus came limping in, almost frozen.

"Well, wife," he said, "I've had enough of riding a wheel. I nearly broke my neck. Reindeer are good enough for me and next year I shall go in the good, old way."

A little boy who laid awake a long time Christmas Eve, said, the next morning, that he saw Santa Claus flying through the air and a wheel coming after him, for it was bright moonlight. And it looked as if he was falling from their roof.

His mother laughed and said to his father, "He's been thinking so much about a wheel, he dreamed that."

But when he looked out of the front window, there was a big hollow place in the snow drift, as if some one had lain there, and he still thinks that he saw Santa Claus.—Primary Education.

A Runaway Christmas Tree.

It was Christmas day, and somewhere the other side of Fargo, we had been snow-bound for three days in Montana, or we'd have all been home. At a little station a man got on who was soon talking familiarly. He seemed like an honest man; indeed, the dominie detected a childlike note in his character which he suspected might come from the man's long life close to the great heart of nature. After he found that he could not sell us any lots in Centropolis, he laid aside business and told the following story. We should have doubted parts of it had it not been for the man's intimate association with the great heart of nature. He said:

"Queer place to spend Christmas, gentlemen; but queer things are always happening in a new country. Makes me think of a little occurrence at Christmas time last year out near where I live. There are a few Scandinavians around there—bang-up class of settlers. Honest as the day is long, and guileless as a new-born babe. This thing happened out at the Johnson school-house, near where my friend Ole Erickson lives. A few days before Christmas Ole came to me and said:

"You see here, Mr. Jackson—my name is Jackson—you know mae fader-en-law, old man Oleson?"

"Yes," I said.

"Well, hae haf a team of vork-horses aye wants to buy, but hae ask too mooch for 'em. Aye tank aye feex de old gentleman so hae sell de horses sheep. Dare bees going to be a Chrestmas tree out at de Yonson school-house—aye going to poot on somethin' nice for heem. Aye tales mae vrooman aye poot on vum cow. Eet mek heem feel good to geet a cow. Aye haf vum cow dat vas dry—she doan geef no meelk now. Aye tales mae vrooman aye poot on dat cow for mae fader-en-law. Dis cow nat bees mooch on geefing meelk any time—all long legs, long horns, sweench her tall, unt keek de meelk-pail forty rod. Aye says to mae vrooman dat veel keel two birds vud run rock—geet reed of de old keeker, unt geet de team sheep. Aye tank aye bees onto mae yob all right'nough!"

"But you can't put a cow on a Christmas tree," I said to him.

"Oh, aye nat hang her cop on de tree; oye just tie her to eet."

"So he went off, and afterwards I heard about how it all came out. Ole and his wife took the cow, and just before the thing opened up to get on de school-house. 'Ve wants to poot on de cow,' says Ole; but they wouldn't listen to him. But Ole wasn't to be bluffed that way; so he says, 'Tale vum aye do; aye stand de cow behind de school-house unt open de back door a little unt poot de rope troo de crack unt tie eet to de bottom of de tree.' Some o'fem thought that was hardly the thing, but they agreed to it at last, and he stood the cow outside the back door, which opened out, and ran the

rope which was around her horns through the crack and tied it to the tree just above the door. The tree was a small one, which wasn't strange, as it had come three hundred miles by rail.

"It was a mild night, and the cow cottoned to it all right enough, so Ole and his wife went around front and took their seats with the others. There was the regular exercises that they always have at such contraptions—singing by the Sunday-school, speaking by some members of the infant class, and that sort of guff, after which the minister got up and said: 'My friends and brethren and sisters, what a beautiful tree we have here, and what rich fruit it bears! We are, most of us, far away from our former homes, and in a new and untired country. We know not what may be before us for the coming year, but of this tree and the many presents it holds we are certain. We can pluck the gifts of loved ones from its branches, even as I do now, and—just then Ole's cow jerked around her head, and the door swung open, and she saw the light, let out one bellow, and made a jump like a kangaroo, yanking that tree out of the door butt-end first. Then she tearing off down the road towards home, bellowing at the top of her lungs, kicking like a bay mule, and snatching that tree along behind like a plug that tied to a dog's tail. Ole came in to tell me about it next day. 'Dat old keeker, she never stop teel she geet to mae place,' he said, 'unt de presents all along de road. Unt de peoples day say eet dat can geet de tree, dat day stand heem oop, unt day leech Ole on heem. So me unt mae vrooman ve spend all de night pecking oop de tings vid a lantern unt carrying them back. But ve tank some of dem geet lost een de snow after all.'"

"Did you take the cow over to your father-in-law's this morning?" I said to him.

"His face got as long as a fiddle, and then he said:

"Yah, aye tek her ofer. Unt he mek a grin on hees face, unt he say, 'Dat's perty nice, Ole.' Den after a while aye say to heem, 'How mooch for dat team of vork-horses?' Unt de old faller hae say, 'Two hundred dollar; but last veek hee say vum hundred seventy-five. Den aye feel like aye vish de cow might keek me forty rod, like she do meelk-pail.'"

"I always feel rather sorry for Ole because the scheme failed; but all of us slip on our plans once in a while.—Harper's Magazine.

La Madonna Della Sedia.

Raphael painted a great many pictures of the Madonna. Some of these have a grander beauty than the Madonna of the Chair; but this is a representation of sweet, human affection, and while other Madonnas win our wondering admiration, this wins our deepest love.

The mother sits in a low chair with the little Christ-Child closely clasped in her arms; His hands are concealed by her drapery, and her face is resting against His. The little Saint John, with folded hands stands near them; in his arms he holds a small cross. The cross and the folded hands are indeed prophetic of the spiritual connection that existed between Jesus and Saint John when childhood gave place to manhood, and the life-work of the one prepared the way for the life-work of the other, but the picture is more suggestive of two little cousins stopping for a moment in their play to nestle beside a loving mother. The Madonna's face is sweet and youthful, and the little Jesus resembles her.

There is a pretty legend connected with this painting. It has been peated again and again, but possibly some of my readers may not be familiar with it. To know it adds greatly to the enjoyment of the picture. It has a charm that fails to cling to all legends that are illustrated by the old paintings or associated with them, for it is quite possible to believe it true. This legend tells us that long years ago, when Raphael was upon earth, there lived among the hills of Italy a good old hermit, who was called Father Bernardino. "Are you not lonely and sad?" some one asked him, knowing how solitary he was. "Oh, no," he answered, "for I have two daughters who are kind to me; one is a talking daughter, but the other is dumb."

It was afterward learned that the dumb daughter was a noble old tree that grew beside his hut, and that the talking daughter was Mary, whose father was a vine-dresser, who also lived among the Italian hills. Mary loved the old monk, and often ministered to his comfort.

After a time the old hermit's hut was made unsafe by a freshet, and Father Bernardino only saved his life by climbing into the arms of his dumb daughter. He remained there until Mary and her father came and took him to their home. His talking daughter cared for him, too, tenderly until he died. Before he passed away he prayed that God would distinguish his two daughters with special blessings, in remembrance of the protection and comfort they had given to the lonely hermit.

As years went on the tree was cut down, and made into wine casks. Mary became a wife, and a mother of children of rare beauty.

At a distance was Raphael, longing to find his ideal of the Madonna, of the Christ-Child, and of the little Saint John. At last, traveling in the country, he found in the talking daughter and her sons the fulfillment of his wish. One of the casks made from the dumb daughter was lying near, and he sketched his picture upon the cover. So Father Bernardino's prayer was answered, for although hundreds of years have passed away since that time, the Madonna of the Chair in thousands of thousands of homes is still a choice treasure, improving by its beauty the taste and hearts of its owners. It has inspired many artists to noble work, and in the sweet influence it exerts, the old monk's wish is abundantly fulfilled. The original Madonna of the Chair is now in the Pitti Gallery at Florence.—Evelyn S. Foster, in Every Other Sunday.

Beeswax and salt will make your rusty flatirons as smooth as glass.

An Odd Christmas Tree.

A young girl, living in the south-east part of the country, where there are no wild evergreen trees, was anxious to celebrate Christmas; and this is the way she did it. The account is taken from a letter describing it to a friend:—

"But I must tell you of my Christmas. In the first place mamma had said she could not afford to give us older ones any presents this year; but A. and I determined to have a Merry Christmas anyway, and surprise the others. We soon thought of a way. We determined to use an umbrella frame for our Christmas tree.

"Everything was done in secret. Mamma consented to let us have what presents she had for the little ones, but she could not think what we intended to do. Christmas eve, armed with umbrellas and rope, we betook ourselves to our own room. There were some candles left from our last year's tree, which, in the absence of holders, we tied on. The rope we stretched between two hooks and hung the umbrella on it. We decorated it with snowy chains of popcorn, animal crackers, and doughnut babies. I never made doughnuts before, but Christmas excused their faults. Our candy and nuts were home-made and home-grown. We had molasses taffy, maple sugar with walnuts, and cream candies. We put J's share in a miniature man made of black satteen, because he is so fond of all good things. For the others were made of little baskets of white cardboard, laced with colored zephyr. Finally we hung on our little gifts, and went to sleep, anxious for the morning. We rose early, and carried our umbrella into mamma's room. Everybody was surprised. We thought the umbrella tree very appropriate; for we could not have anything else, and, besides, it had rained all night.—Christian Register.

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A Merry Christmas to all.

The woman who has boys and girls to wish her "A Merry Christmas" long before the sun has risen, and to bring her their surprises and joys throughout the happy day, is not the one who feels the approach of old age or who seems old to those who know her, says the Advocate. Though the pink may have left her cheeks, and a sense of physical weariness may come more frequently than formerly, she lives her youth over and over with her children and consequently is young in heart.

Comparison with young people does not have the effect of making the middle-aged woman of today appear old. On the other hand, it is the woman who keeps herself from sympathetic contact with their interests, who has lost her youth. It is not worthy, that, in many cases, the mother of the large family is younger in look, manner and feeling than is the childless sister whose years are fewer. The former has had more cause for care, responsibility and anxiety than the latter, but she has had in addition that strong interest in young life which serves as a continual refreshing of the spirit.

A Christmas decoration which will please the children, and I have known it to amuse the older ones as well, is called across the water a Christingle, and is easily made. They are not as well known here as in Germany. They are made by piercing a hole in an orange, putting a piece of quill three or four inches long, set upright in the hole and frequently a second quill inside of this. The top of each quill is divided into slips, each one of which is loaded with a raisin. The weight of the raisins

bend down the little slips of quill, giving two circles of pendants. A tiny colored candle or taper is placed in the upper quill and lighted on Christmas Eve.

A reader of the Harper's Weekly, who lives in Milwaukee, thinks there may be other readers who would be interested in a millinery opening that happened in that town in October. It was managed by the Wisconsin Audubon Society. "The use of a large handsome house was given for the occasion by one of the directors. No responsibility was taken by the society as to the hats exhibited, and no sales were guaranteed but when it became known that six leading milliners had been invited to send displays, twenty-five other firms applied, asking for space. No feathers were admitted excepting ostrich plumes, quills, and cocks' tails. Five hundred invitations were issued, as to a reception. The fashionable world responded, the rooms were thronged, and many hats were sold. The advantage of the reception was that it made the Audubon work known to the general public that read of it in the papers, to the women who attended, and, best of all, to the milliners, who saw that their best customers were interested." If any Audubon society has hit upon a more practical method than this of making festive hats fashionable it certainly has not come to the Weekly's notice.

The day we butcher, we grind and season the meat to suit the taste, pack solid in flat one gallon crocks to within an inch of the top, put in the baker and bake as you would bread with a steady fire for about two hours says a correspondent of an exchange. Take out and set away to cool with an inverted plate and a weight to keep it down until cold, then if it is not covered with lard that is fried out of it put enough fresh lard on to cover nicely. Paper up and set away in a cold place, and it will keep for a year just as fresh as the day it was made. When wanted for use slice out and fry a nice brown. Our minister and wife took dinner with us yesterday, and they thought they never ate anything so good as our sausage. We usually bake all we make, as it is better for immediate use than when not baked.

An infant that cries, is fretful and frequently carries its hand to the side of the head or presses the ear against its mother's breast is most likely suffering from earache, says Trained Motherhood. Movement of the head from side to side or boring it into the pillow indicates headache and possibly meningitis. Rubbing the nose is indicative of some irritation in the alimentary tract, from worms or unwholesome food. Violent spasmodic contractions of the limbs and muscles of the head and face, in other words a general convulsion, should always be regarded with concern. It may be a sign of acute indigestion or it may herald the advance of

scarlet fever or some other serious disease.

The character of the respiration is an important symptom in all suspected diseases of the breathing apparatus. If a child of six to twelve months of age breathes more than thirty-five per minute while asleep, and at the same time appears ill in other ways, it is best to send at once for the family physician. It will be to remember that healthy infants of two or three months of age may sometimes breathe as rapidly as sixty or seventy times a minute when awake. By placing the ear against the chest of the child one should hear the normal "vesicular murmur." If any rough, piping sounds are heard or if no sound at all is heard the child should be placed under the care of the physician.

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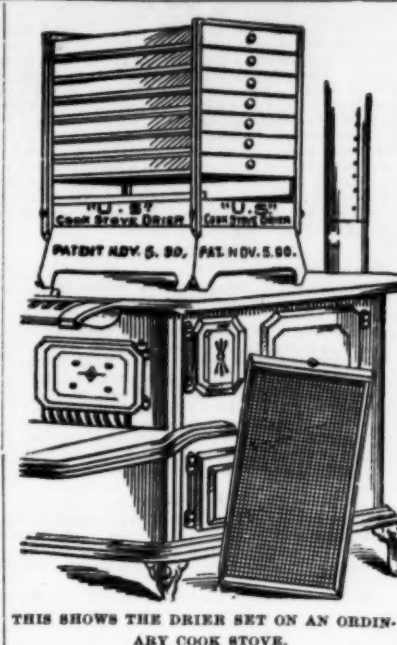
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